

# CNIM update

May 2026

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# CNIM Update - May 2026



## Heavy Equipment Technician

During the February–May 2026 reporting period, 12 students completed the Heavy Equipment Technician pre-apprenticeship program and 11 Level 4 apprentices completed their technical training. CNIM also supported a successful instructional transition from long-time instructor Doug McRae to new instructor Mack Smith. Through sustained engagement and outreach efforts over several years, the program has continued to grow significantly. We received more than 40 applications for 12 seats in the Fall 2026 pre-apprenticeship intake, with the program filling faster than ever before. Over the past decade, the program has grown from cohorts of 6–8 students to consistently full intakes that now suggest demand for additional entry-level training capacity.

## Heavy Equipment Operator Training

The Heavy Equipment Operator Training program continues to progress successfully, with strong participation and positive engagement from trainees. To date, the program has delivered three Skid Steer Operator courses and two Mini Excavator courses, providing participants with practical, hands-on equipment training and safety instruction.

Training sessions focused on safe equipment operation, daily inspections, site awareness, and basic maintenance procedures. Participants gained valuable experience operating equipment in controlled training environments while building confidence and job-ready skills.

The program is also building a busy Summer SHEO (Small Heavy Equipment Operator) training schedule within the communities, with planned Heavy Equipment training that includes both simulator (SIM) training and in-cab instruction. This approach will provide participants with a combination of virtual skills development and real-world operating experience to further strengthen competency and workplace readiness.



***Another Successful Skid Steer operator training course!***

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The program continues to support workforce development by preparing participants for employment opportunities within the construction, mining, and resource sectors. Feedback from trainees has been positive, and interest in future training opportunities remains strong.

As per our agreement with the Yukon Government, our courses have been taking place at the Haeckel Hill gravel pit for practical training. This site provided operators with real-world operating conditions, including uneven terrain, slopes, material handling, and traffic awareness. Site-specific hazards and safe operating procedures for the gravel pit were reviewed and reinforced during the training.

## Whitehorse training results:

**Heavy trailer Endorsement: 5 students**

**Mini Excavator Operator Training: 15 students**

**Skid Steer Loader Operator Training: 22 students**

**Introductory Common Core Safety Training: 9 students**

## Commercial Driver Training

While the majority of our Class 3 commercial driver training between February and May 2026 was delivered in Whitehorse, two air brake endorsement courses were taught by John McDonald at the Dawson Campus in March.

As the CNIM team gears up for the Spring and Summer training seasons, we have received 6 community inquiries about Class 1 commercial driver training. CNIM staff fields frequent requests from Class 3 commercial driving program graduates inquiring about Class 1 commercial driver training following their 2025 work experience.

The frequency of air brake endorsement courses has increased 45% since last year, with CNIM's commercial driving instructors offering 6 courses in 4 months.



*Easton Hagwood, Class 3 graduate*



*Jeremiah Fraser, Class 3 graduate*



*Justin Carroll, Class 3 graduate*

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Class 4, 3 & 1  
Theory:  
19 students

Air Brake  
Endorsement  
52 students

Class 3 in-cab  
training:  
15 students

## February-May 2026 Commercial Driving Programming Results

Class 1 in-cab  
training  
2 student

Simulator Training  
15 students

Road Tests  
3 students

# CNIM Update - May 2026

## Safety and Industrial Training

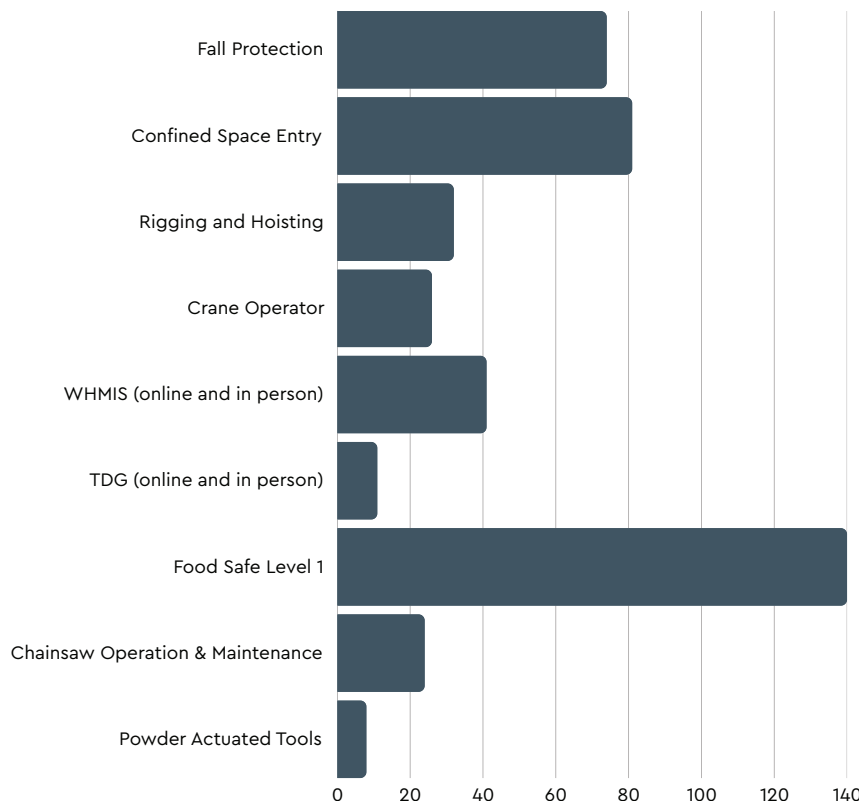
This February, Heavy Equipment Operator Instructor Tomasz Wozniak completed the Datatec Train-the-Trainer certification for WHMIS, further strengthening our internal training capacity and safety instruction expertise.

Safety and Industrial has also launched a new Lockout Awareness course featuring a newly developed simulator board to enhance hands-on learning and practical safety training.

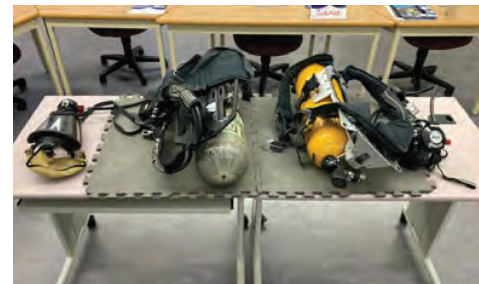
Instructors Wayne Schmidt and Tomasz Wozniak have remained active in communities, working closely with the CROW program to deliver a variety of training opportunities. In addition to regular programming, they have provided requested Rigging and Hoisting and Crane courses to support workforce development needs.

At the end of May, Wayne Schmidt travels to Dawson and Mayo with the Crane 20-ton truck to deliver additional Rigging and Hoisting and Crane training in the communities.

## Student Numbers February- May, 2026



*Instructor, Tomasz Wozniak (second from right) and students from the Community Retraining of Workers (CROW) program*



*Confined Space Entry training in Mayo (CROW program) Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)*

# Earth Sciences

The Earth Sciences program has finished another successful semester. Faculty taught seven courses in both the first and second years of the diploma program. These courses include:

- **Geological Field Methods and Mapping II** (GEOL 216); taught by Dr. Joel Cubley (6 students) [Taught on Quadra Island, BC]



*Geology students from Yukon University and Vancouver Island University work together to discuss bedrock mapping strategies as a part of their field school on Quadra Island (GEOL 216).*



*A YukonU Earth Sciences student measures the orientation of bedding in outcrops on Quadra Island while participating in the intermediate field school (GEOL 216).*

- **Geochemistry** (GEOL 211); lecture and lab taught by Dr. Joel Cubley (7 students)

- **Geophysics** (GEOL 213); lecture and lab taught by Dr. Joel Cubley (5 students)

- **Hydrogeology** (GEOL 301); lecture and lab taught by Mary Samolczyk (6 students)

*Hydrogeology students (GEOL 301) prepare to conduct a slug test on a well in the Whitehorse Copper Belt with groundwater technicians from YG's Water Science and Stewardship Branch.*



- **Historical Geology** (GEOL 106); lecture and lab taught by Dr. Chad Morgan (8 students)
- **Earth Through Time** (GEOL 108); online course (lecture only) taught by Dr. Chad Morgan (37 students)
- **Introduction to the Mineral Exploration and Mining Industries** (GEOL 112); lecture taught by Dr. Chad Morgan (30 students)
- **Earth Systems: Landscapes and Natural Hazards** (GEOG 102); lecture taught by Mary Samolczyk (6 students)

We are excited to congratulate six students at the convocation in June. In addition, two of our past graduates who transferred their diploma credits to other universities (Acadia University and UBC), are graduating this year with their B.Sc. degrees in geology and will be eligible to apply for P.Geo designation. We are proud that our program is providing students with a pathway to achieve their educational goals.

The program benefitted from community and industry connections this semester. We are grateful for involvement from Hecla Mining Company, Snowline Gold, the Yukon Government's Water Science and Stewardship branch, and the Faro Mine Remediation Project (CIRNAC). Earth Sciences faculty continue to dedicate time to geology outreach. The Virtual Geology Project ([www.yukonu.ca/virtual-geology](http://www.yukonu.ca/virtual-geology)), funded by NRCan's GEM GeoNorth Program, was showcased at the Arctic Winter Games. The virtual tours highlighting the territory's fascinating geology drew significant interest from local and international participants alike. The program was also involved in the Yukon Stikine Regional Science Fair and hosted visiting school groups in the laboratory.

Faculty will spend much of the summer working on various research projects. Notably, Samolczyk and Cubley were awarded a National Research Council grant to study the influence of wetlands and surficial materials on flowpaths and metal attenuation in groundwater in Whitehorse (\$375,000 over 3 years). Also, with support from Mitacs, Earth Sciences faculty are working with CoreGeo to support a student research intern that will conduct experiments to improve shake flask extraction methodologies for metal leaching assessment of durable rock materials in the north.

Yukon geology will be well-represented at the upcoming GAC-MAC (Geological Association of Canada – Mineralogical Association of Canada) annual meeting in St. John's, with three presentations (2 posters, 1 talk). The Earth Science program is also working with the Yukon Geological Survey (YGS) to host GAC-MAC 2027 in Whitehorse next summer (June 13 – 16, 2027). Dr. Chad Morgan is serving as LOC co-chair. Yukon University last co-hosted GAC-MAC in 2016 with the YGS, and we are excited to do so again in 2027!

# Environmental Monitoring Certificate

In February, five Environmental Monitoring Certificate Program students from the 2025 cohort completed the ENVM091 course, which centres on meteorology, weather stations, and climate change. This course was held in Whitehorse, where students had the opportunity to engage in discussions with various local environmental consulting companies and enjoyed an exclusive tour of the Yukon Government's weather station.

In April, three Environmental Monitoring Certificate Program students travelled to Haida Gwaii, BC, with Scott Keesey for the ENVM099: Capstone Project course. During this trip, students explored Haida Gwaii while applying their skills and knowledge to assess and monitor the environmental conditions off the coast.



## Capstone Project in Haida Gwaii, BC

Students: Darren Bullen, Zackariah Yeager and Chase Everitt completed their course work in a pacific temperate rainforest environment.



In May, six Environmental Monitoring Certificate Program students travelled to Atlin, BC, with Scott Keesey and Shirley Dawson for the ENVM093: Aquatic Monitoring 1 course.



# Environmental Monitoring Certificate

The Environmental Monitoring Certificate Program is currently undergoing a review along with other existing Yukon University programs as a means to ensure relevance for students and graduates' employers. With this process underway, our faculty will offer the following courses:

**ENVM097** *Contaminated Sites* June 10–17, 2026

**ENVM096** *Terrestrial Monitoring 2* July 7–14, 2026

**ENVM098** *Reclamation and Restoration* August 20–27, 2026

**ENVM094** *Aquatic Monitoring 2* September 9–16, 2026

**ENVM095** *Terrestrial 1 – Earth Sciences* February TBD 2027

**ENVM092** *Environmental Monitoring 2* March 3–10, 2027

This schedule will allow students admitted to the ENVM program in 2025 and earlier to progress toward graduation, while new students will not be accepted to the program but may register for individual courses.

Environmental  
Monitoring Certificate

# General Updates

## Yukon Workers' Safety and Compensation Board (YWSCB) Projects

### **First Line Supervisor Certification Program Review, Improvement and Stream Expansion**

CNIM, under contract with the Yukon Workers' Safety and Compensation Board (YWSCB), will develop two new supervisor certification streams: Mill Operations Supervisor and Maintenance Supervisor, and will review and enhance the current Mine Supervisor Program content. CNIM will work with Etienne Tardif of Outliers Mining Solutions (Canada) Inc. for this one-month project. The enhanced First Line Supervisor Certification Program will continue to be available through the Yukon University's online Moodle platform.

### **Crane Certification**

CNIM continues to develop crane training and certification pathways under the guidance and financial support of the Yukon Workers' Safety and Compensation Board (YWSCB). This project will investigate opportunities to host Fulford Certification for Level A crane certification workshops, which will be valid for life, with no expiry date. As of the date of this report, since January 2023, CNIM's Industrial Safety Instructor, Wayne Schmidt, has provided crane training to 172 students in the Yukon who are now eligible for certification.

### **Blaster Training and Certification**

Over the next two years, CNIM will develop blaster training and certification pathways for the Yukon Workers' Safety and Compensation Board (YWSCB). CNIM will begin this project with a blaster training and certification development committee meeting in late June 2026.

### **Mining Industry Human Resource Council**

In March, CNIM contributed in an advisory role with the Mining Industry Human Resource Council (MiHR) as a member of an Advisory Committee for MiHR's Essentials Skills training programs (Mining Essentials / Mining Potential). For this activity, CNIM's Department Head, Ginny Coyne attended a MiHR meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, in Toronto, Ontario, along with mining industry representatives and other exploration and mining stakeholders.

MiHR continues to offer wage subsidies to mining employers that help youth attain work opportunities. More information is available online at: <https://mihr.ca/wage-subsidy-programs/>

# General Updates



Earth Sciences faculty host students from Whitehorse Elementary School. They were keen to learn about groundwater, fossils, and mineralogy.



Industrial Safety Programs instructor Wayne Schmidt travels Yukon's highways to deliver crane training in Dawson City, Mayo, and Pelly Crossing.



Industrial Safety Programs instructor, Tomasz Wozniak, showcases the lockout simulator at an open house event held on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026.



CNIM hosted a Yukon Mining & Geology Week 'Build Canada Strong' themed Lunch & Learn event held at CNIM on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026. This event was cosponsored by Yukon Women in Mining.



Yukon University's new 2026 Kenworth T880 tractor has arrived for use in the extended 2025-27 CanNor Advancing Commercial Driving Project.